

Contractors to the world



George Wimpey & Co Limited

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Facing: Highland One, the largest steel jacket built to date, being towed out of the dock at Nigg Bay on its way to the Forties field in the North Sea.

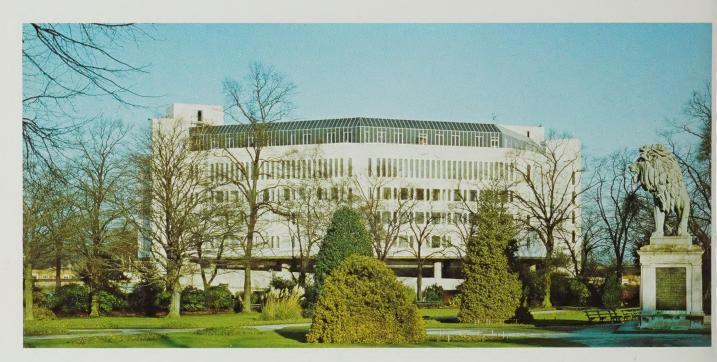
Constructed by Brown & Root-Wimpey Highlands Fabricators

Top: This octagonal office block of unique design houses the Head Office of the Metal Box Company at Reading.

Architects: Llewelyn – Davies, Weeks, Forestier – Walker and Bor

Consulting Engineers: Ove Arup & Partners
Quantity Surveyors: Wakeman, Trower & Partners

Bottom: A private housing estate at Oakville, Ontario, Canada, where the greatest use of space is achieved by attractive design and landscaping.





Notice of annual general meeting

Notice is hereby given that the fifty-sixth annual general meeting of George Wimpey & Co Limited will be held at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington High Street, London W8 on Thursday 8 May 1975 at 12 noon for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive and consider the report of the directors and accounts for the year ended 31 December 1974 (Resolution 1).
- 2 To declare a dividend (Resolution 2).
- 3 To re-elect the following directors who retire in accordance with the company's Articles of Association:
 Sir Joseph Latham (Resolution 3a).
 AD McDowall (Resolution 3b).
- 4 To consider the following resolution which will be proposed as a special resolution:
- 'That the following be substituted for the first sentence of Article 99 of the company's Articles of Association:

Until otherwise determined by a general meeting the remuneration of the directors shall be at the rate of £2,500 per annum.' (Resolution 4).

By order of the Board R Cowan, Secretary 11 April 1975

Notes

- 1 A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy need not also be a member of the company.
- 2 This notice is being sent to all holders of shares and loan stock, but only ordinary shareholders are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- 3 There are no contracts of service with directors.
- 4 The company is not a close company under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970.
- 5 For the purpose of computing capital gains tax, the market values of the company's share and loan capital on 6 April 1965 were: ordinary shares (adjusted for subsequent splitting and capitalisation issues) 4315p 6% Unsecured Loan Stock 1975/80 £92½.

Directors and officers

Chairman

RH Gane

Managing directors

DRW Watts CBE BSc FICE RB Smith FIOB P Ainley FIOB DG Fitzgerald MA FICE D Wight

Sir Godfrey W Mitchell

Directors

W Barr Hon AL Hood Sir Charles R Wheeler KBE Sir Joseph Latham CBE FCA HJ Hyams JH Oakley BSc FICE H Norris FCA J Anderson BSc D Macpherson BSc FICE CJ Chetwood FIOB R Cowan MA FCIS (and Secretary) AM Coane BSc TT Candlish BSc FICE AW Nicol PJ Ward JC Chapman PhD FICE FRINA FIStructE AD McDowall FICE FIOB

Auditors

Deloitte & Co, chartered accountants 128 Queen Victoria Street London EC4P 4JX

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Limited 12 King Street London W6 0QD

Registrars and transfer office

Deloitte & Co Bourne House 34 Beckenham Road Beckenham Kent BR3 4TU

Registered office

Hammersmith Grove London W6 7EN

Registration

London 156617

Chairman's statement

I am pleased to report on another satisfactory year. The value of work executed by the group was a record £358m with, additionally, £22m attributable to interests in associated companies. This compares with £321m for the group and £11m for associated companies in 1973. The profit for 1974 was £33,447,898 compared with £32,384,239 for 1973 and, after tax, was £16,176,345 compared with £15,981,181. These results, in a difficult year, are a fine tribute to the resourcefulness and energy of Wimpey personnel at all levels.

One of the significant features was the successful growth and performance of George Wimpey International, the subsidiary formed in 1973 to co-ordinate overseas activities. It is encouraging, in the first full year of operation, that results on overseas contracts have improved and bookings of new work have increased substantially, particularly in the Middle East where our management organisation has been strengthened.

Another important achievement of 1974 was the successful completion of the world's largest offshore structure, constructed at Nigg Bay in Scotland, by our associated company Brown & Root-Wimpey Highlands Fabricators for the BP Forties oilfield. We can feel justly proud of our efforts in the gigantic operations connected with the development of North Sea oil.

Personnel

At a time when industrial relations are generally under scrutiny it is pleasing to report on satisfactory relationships between management and employees which have played such an important part in achievement of our results. A great deal of effort continues to be applied in expanding management development programmes and increasing training facilities for technical skills. I am pleased to say that the results so far are most encouraging. In addition, steps to improve communications throughout the organisation have been taken and here again satisfactory progress can be reported.

Directors

Before the date of our shareholders' meeting in May, Mr P Ainley will have retired after sixteen years service on the board, the last two as a managing director. During his long career with the company he has made a major contribution to our success in the field of local authority housing and in the development of our UK regional organisation. In his place Mr D Wight has been appointed a managing director.

Mr AD McDowall was appointed an executive director on 27 February 1975. Prior to his appointment to the board he has held senior executive posts with the company. The director to retire by rotation is Sir Joseph Latham. His wide experience and sound judgment is of considerable benefit to the company and I shall propose his and Mr McDowall's re-election with every confidence. Sir Charles Wheeler has attained the age of 70 and will not be offering himself for re-election. He has been a non-executive director since 1957 and I take this opportunity to record our appreciation for his valued contribution over this long period.

Accounts

Despite a record figure of capital expenditure for the year, the group has substantial cash resources. Cash and bank balances at the end of 1974 totalled £41m.

The treatment of the results of associated companies has been changed this year and the net balance of the attributable share of all profits and losses is included in the consolidated accounts instead of including merely dividends received and provision for certain losses. This change of treatment, however, affects the figure of group profit for the year only to a minor extent.

Top left: RH Gane (right) and DG Fitzgerald (centre) seen here talking to AW Warnock, divisional general manager of Barclays property division during the topping out of Barclays Bank Hostel, West London – built in No-Fines concrete.

Bottom left: RB Smith and E Fulep of Intercooperation Company, Budapest, sign the agreement to build 24,000 Wimpey No-Fines dwellings in Hungary, watched by A Madarassy also of Intercooperation. Top right: Her Majesty the Queen shaking hands with DRW Watts during her visit to Nigg Bay prior to the launch of Highland One.

Bottom right: Handing over the first house at Brook Hill Close Estate, Woolwich – a new development to house Army personnel. Left to right: Brigadier JG Parham, MBE, Commander Woolwich Garrison; P Ainley; AP Josephides, head of Married Quarters Group PSA/DOE; Ross Campbell, Director of Defence Services II PSA/DOE; Reginald Freeson, MP, Minister for Housing and Construction.









During the year the last instalment of £12,150,000 arising from the sale in 1972 of part of the group's shareholding in The Oldham Estate Company was received.

Additionally, a holding in St Martin's Property Corporation was sold, and the resulting profit has been placed to the credit of capital reserve, after deducting a provision for tax.

As announced in my statement last year, a new staff pension scheme has been introduced and a further allocation to pension reserve of £1m has been made.

Prospects

We started 1975 with a record order book. The upsurge of work overseas, particularly in Iran and the Middle East, contributed to this as did our involvement with the development of North Sea oil. The outlook in the UK for the construction industry as a whole is depressing. Certainly our prospects in some sectors in the UK, principally road building, surfacing and industrial and commercial building, are limited due to cutbacks of spending in the public sector and a lack of confidence due to the country's economic situation. Happily our order book for No-Fines houses for local authorities is at a very high level and, subject to a continuing availability of mortgages, we expect to increase the number of private house sales. Thus the broad base of our activities is of considerable strength in facing the challenge of the coming year.

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Chairman

Report of the directors

The directors have pleasure in submitting their fifty-sixth report to the members together with a balance sheet as at 31 December 1974, and the group accounts for the year ended on that date.

Profits and dividends The net profit, before deducting tax, amounts to Less: Taxation as shown in the profit and loss account	£	£ 33,447,898 17,271,553
Net profit after taxation		16,176,345
Transfer to general reserve 13,0	329,614 000,000 000,000	15,329,614
Leaving an unappropriated balance of		£846,731

Directors

1 The director to retire by rotation is Sir Joseph Latham who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Mr AD McDowall was appointed to the Board on 27 February 1975. He retires under Article 96 but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Sir Charles R Wheeler having attained the age of 70 retires from office at 8 May 1975 and will not be offering himself for re-election.

2 Mr HJ Hyams is a major shareholder in The Oldham Estate Company Limited. The Wimpey group has a shareholding in Oldham and has some contracts with and has provided finance for building developments by Oldham and its subsidiaries. Mr Hyams is a party to an agreement ratified by the shareholders on 3 May 1972 for the sale of part of the group's holding in Oldham, which is referred to in note 14(f) on the accounts.

3 Interests of the directors in shares of the company are shown below. Except where indicated all the interests are held beneficially.

Ordinary shares	31 Dec 74	1 Jan 74
RH Gane DRW Watts	32,000 29,000	32,000 18,000
RB Smith	21,600	21,600
P Ainley	4,200	4,200
DG Fitzgerald	11,120	11,120
D Wight	1,920	1,920
Sir Godfrey W Mitchell	32,000	16,000
W Barr	54,000	54,000
AL Hood	311,000	313,000
(Trustee Interest		
Non-Beneficial)	45,632	46,532

Sir Charles R Wheeler	135,983	128,783
Sir Joseph Latham	6,400	6,400
HJ Hyams	41,600	41,600
JH Oakley	2,000	3,000
H Norris	7,000	7,000
J Anderson	9,000	9,000
D Macpherson	4,800	4,800
CJ Chetwood	4,600	4,600
R Cowan	6,200	4,850
AM Coane	5,000	5,000
TT Candlish	2,000	454
AW Nicol	2,790	500
PJ Ward	1,400	1,400
JC Chapman	2,000	1,000

No 6% Unsecured Loan Stock was held by any of the directors.

At 11 March 1975 Mr CJ Chetwood, Mr PJ Ward and Mr AD McDowall held beneficial interests in 4,100, 1,900 and 13,325 ordinary shares respectively. No other changes in the directors' interests in the company's shares occurred during the period from the date of the accounts to 11 March 1975.

Major shareholdings

There was a holding by Grove Charity Management Limited on 31 December 1974 of 63,675,000 ordinary shares which were still held at 11 March 1975. This holding represented 49.75% of the ordinary shares in issue at both dates.

Fixed assets

No significant changes in the group's fixed assets other than acquisitions in the course of business have occurred.

It is considered that the market value of the land and buildings owned and occupied by the company and its subsidiaries is substantially in excess of the book value but, in relation to the group's affairs as a whole, this difference is not significant. The expense of a professional valuation of land and buildings owned by the group would be considerable and, since almost all such properties are occupied by the company and its subsidiaries for the purposes of the group's business, the significance of such a valuation would not be great.

Principal activities

The business of the group is related to construction and is regarded by the directors as a single class of business. The activities include quarrying, provision of supply vessels and other marine services in connection with the oil industry and property interests, all of which are ancillary to the group's principal activities.

Exports

The group does not engage in the business of exporting goods. Materials and equipment were exported for the purpose of carrying out construction work overseas and such work, including that proportion relative to associated companies, was valued at £69m.

Employees and remuneration

The average number of persons employed by the group in the UK during 1974 was 26,000 and the aggregate remuneration for the year was £70m.

Charitable, educational and political contributions

Contributions for charitable and educational purposes made by the group amounted to £15,375. There were no political contributions.

Auditors

Deloitte & Co, having indicated their willingness to continue as auditors, will be re-appointed in accordance with Section 159(2) of the Companies Act 1948.

By order of the board R Cowan, Secretary 11 April 1975 Accounts of George Wimpey & Co Limited and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 1974

Report of the auditors to the members

We have examined the accounts set out on pages 13 to 25.

As shown in note 17 to the accounts, surpluses of £483,308 (1973 £910,896) on the sale of investments and of £11,048 (1973 £302,002) on repayment of loan stock are taken direct to reserves and not shown in the profit and loss account as extraordinary items. The accounts are therefore not in accordance with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No 6 for accounting for extraordinary items.

With this exception, in our opinion, the accounts give, so far as concerns members of George Wimpey & Co Limited, a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 December 1974, and of the profit for the year ended on that date and comply with the Companies Acts, 1948 and 1967. The accounts of certain subsidiaries have been audited by other firms.

Deloitte & Co Chartered Accountants London 11 April 1975

Consolidated profit and loss account for the year ended 31 December 1974

Operating profit Add: Interest receivable Net rental income	Notes 2	£	1974 £ 28,955,029 5,069,056 611,636	£	1973 £ 28,906,704 3,368,553 588,209
Associated companies: Share of profits less losses Dividends received Net release of provisions Dividends from other trade investments	14(c) 3		1,277,312 — — 43,418		651,620 526,580 95,145
Less: Interest payable Net profit before taxation Less: Taxation	4		35,956,451 2,508,553 33,447,898 17,271,553		34,136,811 1,752,572 32,384,239 16,403,058
Net profit after taxation Recommended ordinary dividend Transfer to general reserve Transfer to pension reserve	6 7	1,329,614 13,000,000 1,000,000	16,176,345	1,181,880 13,000,000 1,500,000	15,981,181
Unappropriated balance of the year Parent company		286,254	15,329,614 		£299,301 (434,498)
Subsidiary companies Associated companies		612,203	898,457 (51,726) £846,731		733,799 ———————————————————————————————————
Earnings per ordinary share	11		12.6p		12.5p

Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 1974

	Notes	£	1974 £		1973 £ £
Share capital Issued capital: George Wimpey & Co Limited	16		32,000,000		32,000,000
Reserves Pension Other	17	2,500,000 71,220,481	73,720,481 ————— 105,720,481	1,500,000 58,588,225	60,088,225 92,088,225
Loans 6% Unsecured Loan Stock 1975/80 Repayable within 5 years (secured to the extent of £8,985,298, 1973 £6,591,738) Repayable after 5 years	18	441,600 12,739,832	200/200/200	481,900 11,130,008	
(secured to the extent of £6,714,216, 1973 £8,769,178)	19	8,363,111	21,544,543	8,887,576	20,499,484
Provision for deferred taxation	20		14,079,523		9,488,804
Current liabilities and provisions Taxation Recommended ordinary dividend Bank overdrafts (secured to the extent of £5,958,560, 1973 £3,625,444) Creditors	7	20,629,891 1,329,614 8,913,225 52,780,744		22,161,931 1,181,880 6,111,677 47,630,627	
			83,653,474		77,086,115
			£224,998,021		£199,162,628

			1974		1973
Fixed assets	Notes 12	£	£	£	£
Cost	12	87,913,978		69,526,455	
Less: Depreciation		36,944,172		32,735,392	
Less: Proportion of Investment Grants		50,969,806 450,159	50,519,647	36,791,063 903,720	35,887,343
Investments-shareholdings and amounts d	ue 14		,,		
Associated companies	14d	15,304,166		9,215,832	
Other companies, at cost: Quoted (Market value					
£1,301,327,1973 £2,887,017)	14g	993,143		947,623	
Unquoted Amounts due from The Oldham Estate	14e	285,575		286,642	
Company Limited and its subsidiaries		9,666,560		14,103,431	
Company Limited and its substitution			26,249,444		24,553,528
Current assets					
Work in progress and stocks Balance of consideration for sale	15	79,703,788		85,438,565	
of shares in The Oldham Estate				10 150 000	
Company Limited Debtors		27,409,824		12,150,000 19,555,504	
Balances at bank and cash in hand		41,115,318		21,577,688	
Daidiros de Paire and odoir in mand			148,228,930		138,721,757

£224,998,021	£199,162,628

Balance sheet as at 31 December 1974

Share capital Issued Capital	Notes 16	£	1974 £ 32,000,000	£	1973 £ 32,000,000
Reserves Pension Other	17	2,500,000 36,973,511	39,473,511	1,500,000 27,204,015	28,704,015
Loans 6% Unsecured Loan Stock 1975/80 Repayable within 5 years (secured to the extent of £595,627,1973 £577,546).	18	1,394,467	1,836,067	481,900	1,852,341
Provision for deferred taxation	20		8,441,969		3,389,820
Current liabilities and provisions Taxation Recommended ordinary dividend Bank overdrafts Creditors	7	11,091,076 1,329,614 2,329,851 41,752,744	56,503,285	10,167,322 1,181,880 2,112,805 40,833,585	54,295,592
			£138,254,832		£120,241,768

			1974		1973
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	12				
Cost		53,965,297		42,784,346	
Less: Depreciation		25,062,740		23,371,508	
		28,902,557		19,412,838	
Less: Proportion of Investment Grants		236,510	00 000 047	611,763	10 001 000
Investments in subsidiary companies	13		28,666,047		18,801,075
Shares at cost, less amounts written off		9,636,012		8,590,800	
Amounts due from subsidiary companies		26,528,723		20,693,638	
		36,164,735		29,284,438	
Less: Amounts due to subsidiary companies		32,597,910		22,740,355	
Torrestore of the selection of the selec	14		3,566,825		6,544,083
Investments—shareholdings and amounts do Associated companies	ue 14 14d	5,981,035		E 670 E00	
Other unquoted companies	140	120,906		5,678,532	
Amounts due from subsidiaries of		120,900		117,420	
The Oldham Estate Company Limited		6,553,376		8,963,921	
The Oldham Estate Company Immed			12,655,317	0,900,921	14,759,873
Current assets					• •
Work in progress and stocks	15	43,490,309		52,242,590	
Debtors		11,386,531		8,266,991	
Balances at bank and cash in hand		38,489,803		19,627,156	
			93,366,643		80,136,737
			C100 054 000		0100 041 500
			£138,254,832		£120,241,768

RH Gane | Directors

Notes on the accounts

1 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts include the accounts of the parent company and all its subsidiaries made up to the end of the financial year, together with the group share of the results of associated companies.

2 Operating profit	1974	1973 £
Operating profit is stated after charging: Directors' fees	£ 24,000	21,421
Directors' other emoluments including contributions to pension funds Staff pension contributions Depreciation Auditors' remuneration and expenses Hire of plant and equipment and after crediting:	338,394 921,445 7,696,557 60,535 6,173,912	273,990 819,965 5,899,390 45,511 5,499,828
Investment Grants	463,500	881,830
3 Dividends from other trade investments	22.222	00.000
Quoted Unquoted	30,093 13,325	82,082 13,063
	£43,418	£95,145
4 Interest payable		
On bank loans and overdrafts and loans repayable within 5 years On long term loans	2,005,942 502,611	1,257,774 494,798
	£2,508,553	£1,752,572
		-
5 Taxation		
United Kingdom: Corporation tax	8,371,824	7,693,664
Credit for overseas tax	790,783	225,368
Deferred tax	7,581,041 6,629,286	7,468,296 5,958,838
Adjustment for stock relief Tax attributable to dividends received	428,440 13,482	190,361
	14,652,249	13,617,495
Overseas:		
Taxes Deferred tax	3,624,350 (1,486,471)	1,327,189 727,975
Associated companies (note 14c)	654,840	
Prior year adjustments:	17,444,968	15,672,659
United Kingdom corporation tax Deferred tax	510,928 (684,343)	(786,197) 1,516,596
	£17,271,553	£16,403,058

Corporation tax has been provided at 52% on the profit of the year (1973 average 49%). A claim for stock appreciation relief will defer the payment of corporation tax which would otherwise have been payable on 1 January 1975. The additional tax which could arise consequent upon the increased rate of corporation tax, has been charged above.

George Wimpey & Co Limited and subsidiaries

6 Net profit after taxation

A profit of £12,615,868 (1973 £12,747,382) has been dealt with in the accounts of the parent company.

7 Ordinary dividend

The recommended dividend of 1.03876 pence per share together with the imputed tax credit is an increase of $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ over the dividend for last year.

8 Turnover

The total value of work executed during the year, including expenditure of clients' funds, was estimated at £358 million (1973 £321 million) and of this work the major proportion related to contracts not completed at the end of the year. The profit of the year relates only to contracts and developments completed during the current year. Additionally, work was undertaken during the year by associated companies of which the group's proportion was valued at £22 million (1973 £11 million).

	moluments of directors excluding pension contributions:	1974	. 1973
Previ	man ent year ous year to 28 June ous year from 28 June	28,589	2,497 13,742
Highe	est paid director	28,589	24,089
	umber of directors receiving emoluments within each of llowing groups was:		
£2,501 £5,001 £7,501 £12,50 £15,00 £17,50 £20,00 £22,50	ore than £2,500 I to £5,000 I to £17,500 I to £15,000 OI to £15,000 OI to £17,500 OI to £20,000 OI to £22,500 OI to £25,000 OI to £30,000	4 2 - 6 6 - 2 2 1	5 4 1 1 7 2 3 - 1
The n worki	uployees' emoluments umber of employees, other than directors and employees ing wholly or mainly outside the United Kingdom, receiving uments within each of the following groups was:	1974	1973
£12,50 £15,00	01 to £12,500 01 to £15,000 01 to £17,500 01 to £20,000	18 3 1 1	4 1 1 -

These emoluments exclude contributions to pension funds.

1973

11 Earnings per ordinary share

The calculation of earnings per share is based on profit of £16,176,345 (1973£15,981,181) and on 128,000,000 ordinary shares in issue at 31 December 1974. Because of the change in the basis of accounting for the results of associated companies, the calculation is not precisely comparable with the previous year.

12 Fixed assets Group Cost 1 January 1974 Additions Exchange adjustments Assets of subsidiaries acquired	Freeholds £000 13,153 1,388 (47) 182	Long leaseholds £000 2,148 88 12	Short leaseholds £000 314 36 — 930	Plant & vessels £000 53,911 25,808 (22) 1,101	Total £000 69,526 27,320 (57) 2,213
Disposals	14,676 793	2 ,248	1,280	80,798 10,294	99,002 11,088
Cost 31 December 1974 Depreciation provision	13,883 2,962	2,247 414	1,280 216	70,504 33,352	87,914 36,944
Net book value 31 December 1974	£10,921	£1,833	£1,064	£37,152	£50,970
Net book value 31 December 1973	£10,756	£1,598	£212	£24,225	£36,791
Parent company Cost 1 January 1974 Additions Exchange adjustments	8,248 1,314 (37)	1,895 32	1 =	32,640 15,753 (5)	42,784 17,099 (42)
Disposals Transfers to subsidiary companies	9,525	1,927	1	48,388 5,879 (3)	59,841 5,879 (3)
Cost 31 December 1974 Depreciation provision	9,525 2,384	1,927 394	1 1	42,512 22,284	53,965 25,063
Net book value 31 December 1974	£7,141	£1,533		£20,228	£28,902
Net book value 31 December 1973	£6,041	£1,552		£11,820	£19,413

Regional Development Grants relating to capital expenditure have been deducted in arriving at the cost of the additions for the year. This practice was not adopted for additions in 1973 but they are restated in these accounts in accordance with the above policy and comparative figures for 1973 have been adjusted accordingly. Investment Grants continue to be shown as a deduction from the net value of fixed assets and are credited to revenue over the expected life of the relevant assets.

Depreciation is provided in the accounts on the original cost of assets at the rates set out below:

Offices and depots occupied by the group: Freehold and long leasehold property Short leasehold property

In equal instalments over 40 years Over the period of the lease

Ouarries

By reference to minerals extracted

Plant and vessels

Over the expected life of the assets

13 Subsidiary companies

The company's principal active subsidiaries, of which all are wholly owned except as indicated, are as follows:

United Kingdom

Annandale Tiles (Highlands) Ltd¹
Approach House (Putney) Ltd (68.8%)¹
DA Monteith (Holdings) Ltd (75%)²
Eyam Quarries Ltd¹
George MacWilliam & Son (Contractors) Ltd²
George MacWilliam & Son (Macrete) Ltd¹.²
George Wimpey International Ltd
George Wimpey Korea Ltd
George Wimpey ME & C Ltd

Glenthorne Insurance Brokers Ltd Hamme Investments Ltd

Hi-Fab Ltd1.2

Monteith Building Services Ltd (75%)1.2

Moore Brothers (Quarries) Ltd³ Second Hamme Investments Ltd

The Lothians Quarry Co Ltd²

The Pure Asphalt Co (Bolton) Ltd¹
Walter Kirkland (Steel) Ltd (75%)¹

Walter Kirkland (Steel) Ltd (75%)1-2

Waxlow Properties Ltd¹ Wimpey Asphalt Ltd

Wimpey Fabricators Ltd

Wimpey Laboratories Ltd

Wimpey Marine Ltd

Australia

Wimpey Developments (Australia) (Pty) Ltd1

Canada

George Wimpey Canada Ltd Wimpey Developments Ltd¹ Wimpey Homes Ltd¹

France

Wimpey France SA Wimpey Asphalt France SARL¹

Nicoria

George Wimpey & Co (Nigeria) Ltd (60%)

Singapore

George Wimpey (Far East) Private Ltd

South Africa

Wimpey Homes (Pty) Ltd1

Spain

Wimpey Española SA

Trinidad

George Wimpey (Caribbean) Ltd

'Shares held by other subsidiaries

²Registered in Scotland

³Incorporated in Northern Ireland

14 Investments

(a) Associated companies - unquoted

Holdings of a material nature included under this heading and representing not less than 20% of the equity are as follows:

Held by parent company %	owned	Held by subsidiary companies	% owned
British Smelter Constructions Ltd	40	Ariel Developments Ltd	50
Brown & Root-Wimpey Ltd	50	Arabian Mechanical Engineering Co Ltd	49
Brown & Root-Wimpey Highlands		Brown & Root-Wimpey Middle East SA	40
Fabricators Ltd	50	Central Land Investments (Surrey) Ltd	30
Industrial Development Group Ltd	281	Chantiers Modernes - Wimpey Asphalt SA	50
Margam Slag Co Ltd	50	Chiltern Street Investments Ltd	22
Marinex Gravel Ltd	50	Chiswick Park Developments Ltd	50
Millbank Technical Services Ordnance	Ltd 24	City & Provincial Developments Ltd	50
(Profits share 333%)		Craigielea Investments Ltd	331
Société d'Engineering et de Réalisation	S	Euston Centre Properties Ltd	50
Wimpey-Sneri SA	40	Haymarket Developments Ltd	20
Wimpey-Brown & Root (Nigeria) Ltd	30	Haysmith Investments Ltd	20
Wimpey Laing Bandar Abbas Ltd	50	Headley Properties Ltd	50
Wimpey Laing Iran Ltd	50	Laing Wimpey Alireza Ltd	333
Wimpey Unox Ltd	40	LW Properties Ltd	50
* *		Paternoster Development Ltd	20
		Shaftward Investments Ltd	333

(b) Other unquoted companies

Holdings of a material nature included under this heading and representing not less than 10% of the equity are as follows:

Held by parent company		Held by subsidiary company	
Conder International Ltd	12 1	The Oldham Estate Co Ltd	101

(c) There has been a change in the accounting treatment of the group share of profits and losses of associated companies. In previous years the group share of profits and losses of associated companies was shown by note and only dividends received and provisions for losses were brought into the accounts. In the current year the group share of profits less losses has been brought into the accounts based on audited accounts of associated companies made up to dates on or after 31 August 1974 or, where these were not available, unaudited management accounts or estimates up to 31 December 1974.

The share of profits less losses, amounting to £1,277,312 as shown in the consolidated Profit and Loss account represents the group share of apportioned results for periods of twelve months ended at various dates between 31 August 1974 and 31 December 1974. The group share of losses less profits of associated companies included in the group reserves in note 17 is made up as follows:

As at 1 January 1974–loss Adjustment in respect of prior years		1,061,284 52,403
		1,008,881
For the current year: Profit before tax Tax thereon (note 5)	1,277,312 654,840	622,472
		386,409
Dividends received during the current year (excluding the notional income tax credit of £285,988)		674,198
Deducted from reserves (note 17)		£1,060,607

The group share of capital surpluses of associated companies amounts to £16,387,346 (1973 £18,862,000). These are primarily surpluses arising from directors' revaluations of properties completed and fully or substantially let, as shown in the capital reserves and directors' reports in the last available accounts of those companies. In stating the surpluses no account has been taken of taxation liabilities which might arise if properties were sold at the valuation amounts.

George Wimpey & Co Limited and subsidiaries

14 Investments continued

The group includes its own properties at cost rather than at revaluation figures, and the group reserves consist entirely of realised surpluses, whether capital or revenue. In order to accord with this accounting policy, the group share of associated companies' revaluation surpluses is not brought into the consolidated balance sheet.

(d) The amount appearing in the balance sheet in respect of associated companies comprises:

	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
		company		company
	1974	1974	1973	1973
	£	£	£	£
Shares, at cost	1,705,930	992,177	1,146,309	687,793
Provisions	-	(489,410)	(489,410)	(489,410)
Share of attributable losses				
less profits Amounts due from	(1,060,607)	Maritie	· —	_
associated companies	14,658,843	5,478,268	8,558,933	5,480,149
	£15,304,166	£5,981,035	£9,215,832	£5,678,532

(e) The total group share of profits and reserves relative to the holdings in unquoted investments shown by accounts made up to various dates from 31 December 1973 to 30 June 1974 is as follows:

	1974 £000	£000
Net profits before taxation Taxation	137 116	206
laxadon	110	98
Net profits after taxation	21	108
Dividends paid attributable thereto	9	10
Total surpluses	12	98
Accumulated net surpluses brought forward	305	207
Accumulated net surpluses carried forward	317	305
Other reserves	10,753	10,609
Group share of post-acquisition surpluses	11,070	10.914
Group share of capital and pre-acquisition reserves	297	320
Total group share of capital and reserves	£11,367	£11,234
Group book values	£286	£287
Group book values	2200	2/2/01

The other reserves shown above are primarily in respect of revaluation surpluses which arise from directors' revaluations of properties completed and fully or substantially let, as shown by the last available accounts or directors' reports of those companies. In stating the surpluses no account has been taken of taxation liabilities which might arise if properties were to be sold at the valuation amounts. Other properties are regarded by the directors of those companies as having a value in excess of the book value.

(f) During 1972, the company, with its subsidiary Hamme Investments Limited, entered into an agreement for the sale of approximately three-quarters of the holding in The Oldham Estate Company Limited. Under the agreement Hamme will retain its remaining holding in Oldham for a period of three years from 26 July 1972, and for a further period of three years thereafter the purchasers have the right to purchase at market price any shares which Hamme may wish to sell. If Oldham shares are not quoted on the London Stock Exchange by 25 July 1975, Hamme may require the purchasers to purchase the remaining shares for £11,077,560 which compares with the group share of capital and reserves amounting to £10,789,498 included under unquoted investments in (e) above. The book value of this holding is £22,649.

(g) In stating the present market value of quoted investments, no account has been taken of tax on capital gains which might arise as a result of any realisation of the shareholdings concerned.

16 Share capital

15 Work in progress and stocks
Work in progress and stocks have been consistently valued at the beginning and end of the year. Work in progress is valued at cost less cash received on account and stocks at cost less provisions.

Ordinary shares of 25p each, authorised, issued and fully paid		£32,000,000	£32,000,000	
17 Reserves	Group	Parent company	Group	Parent company
	1974 £000	1974 £000	1973 £000	1973 £000
Capital reserve Balance at 31 December 1973 Surplus on disposal of investments (after	25,784		24,873	
deducting tax of £132,074, 1973 £436,615)	483		911	_
	£26,267		£25,784	
Pension reserve Balance at 31 December 1973 Transfer from profit and loss account	1,500 1,000	1,500 1,000	1,500	1,500
	£2,500	£2,500	£1,500	£1,500
General reserve Balance at 31 December 1973 Cost of control of subsidiary companies Surplus (loss) arising on exchange differences Surplus on redemption of loan stock (note 18) Transfer from profit and loss account	30,273 (662) (614) 11 13,000	26,650 (528) 11 10,000	16,471 (305) 805 302 13,000	15,281 — 567 302 10,500
	£42,008	£36,133	£30,273	£26,650
Profit and loss account Balance at 31 December 1973 Release of provision consequent upon change of accounting treatment	2,531	554	2,232	988
of associated companies Unappropriated balance of the year	5 76 899	 2 86	299	<u> </u>
	£4,006	£840	£2,531	£554
Associated companies Cumulative share of losses less profits (note 14c)	(£1,061)		_	
Total reserves	£73,720	£39,473	£60,088	£28,704

1974

1973

18 Unsecured loan stock

During the year, £40,300 (1973£1,518,100) of the 6 % Unsecured Loan Stock 1975/80 was purchased at market price and cancelled. The surplus of £11,048 (1973£302,002) has been taken to reserve.

19 Terms of loans

Loans repayable after 5 years are due for repayment at various dates from 1979 to 2005 and interest is payable thereon mainly at rates from 6% to 14% per annum.

20 Provision for deferred taxation

Deferred taxation represents principally taxation at current rates on the excess of tax allowances on capital expenditure over the amounts provided for depreciation, less the Advance Corporation Tax on the recommended dividend.

21 Capital commitments	Group	Parent	Group	Parent company
	1974	1974	1973	1973
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Estimated amount of capital expenditure				
contracted for but not provided in the accounts Expenditure authorised but not contracted for	9,288	7,739	10,367	6 ,106
	4,9 0 5	3,930	3,734	3 ,695

In arriving at these figures, Regional Development Grants have not been taken into account.

22 Exchange rates

Assets, liabilities and trading profits in foreign currencies have been converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the balance sheet.

23 Contingent liabilities

The parent company has guaranteed bank facilities on behalf of associated companies up to an amount of £12,251,584(1973£4,640,000) and on behalf of subsidiary companies up to an amount of £3,240,287(1973£300,000). There are also contingent liabilities in respect of guarantees under building and other agreements entered into in the normal course of business.



Review of the year

United Kingdom: building and civil engineering

The country's economic downturn badly affected the construction industry and caused many problems. Despite this however, we increased our programme for local authorities by some 30 per cent, handing over 12,200 dwellings constructed in our No-Fines technique. In addition we completed the modernisation of no less than 4,000 sub-standard houses and flats. With more than 19,000 new homes under construction and further refurbishing contracts in hand we look forward with some confidence in this sector.

Our private housing development suffered early in the year from lack of funds available to building societies, coupled with high mortgage rates. This situation was somewhat alleviated by the selection of new smaller house types to meet changing market needs, enabling us to sell in all over 8,000 homes to private purchasers. This was an admirable achievement in difficult circumstances.

Although the volume of work on industrial and factory buildings during the year was maintained and the value of commercial building actually increased, current investment is at a low level. Until there is a return of confidence within industry and commerce we face a serious decline in turnover in this sector.

Our interest in property development included in London the continuation of activity at Euston Centre in which we hold a 50 per cent share with Stock Conversion and Investment Trust. We also completed a project in Wigmore Street in which we have a one-third interest with the same partners.

Companies newly included in the list of associated companies are Ariel Developments, Headley Properties and LW Properties which are 50 per cent owned and are undertaking several commercial property developments, generally involving the provision of finance by the group.

In respect of the Monteith group, Scotland – builders merchants and engineers – acquired at the end of 1973, we are able to report an increase in turnover with correspondingly good profits.

Civil engineering activities were affected considerably by the energy crisis in the early part of the year but we maintained a good turnover on major road contracts. We completed the new passenger terminal and quay at Hull docks for the British Transport Dock Board, the fitting-out quay in Belfast for Harland & Wolff and made good progress on the covered shipbuilding dockyard for Sunderland Shipbuilders. Opencast coal mining operations were increased with the award of a new contract in Scotland and extensions of our sites in Wales. New and more powerful plant has been purchased which will increase our coal output over the next few years.

North Sea area

Highland One, the first of two oil structures ordered by BP for their Forties field, was successfully floated out in August from the Nigg Bay Yard of Brown & Root-Wimpey Highlands Fabricators in which we have increased our holding to 50 per cent. Construction of the second structure is well advanced and we have an order from Burmah Oil for a further deep water steel jacket to be located in their Ninian field. This will ensure continuity of operations at Nigg into 1977.

Design is now complete for a concrete gravity structure, which can be built, complete with deck support unit, in a shallow dry dock such as the one at Nigg Bay for which we have planning permission. The small cell design, using pre-cast elements, combines maximum economy with speed and simplicity of construction.

Top: Kai Tak Airport, Hong Kong, one of the world's major airports. The runway was extended and resurfaced to cope with increased traffic. Wimpey Asphalt resurfaced the runway at night and surfaced the extension by day, allowing the airport to be kept fully operational throughout the period of contract.

Main Contractor: Paul Y Consulting Engineers to the Hong Kong Government: Scott Wilson, Kirkpatrick & Partners Bottom: New Headquarters for the Petrochemical Division of ICI, Wilton, Cleveland. The complex includes offices and research and development laboratories.

Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Structural and Service Engineers for the project were, The Building Design Partnership, Preston under the leadership of T Devlin BArch(L'pool) AIArb RIBA





Wimpey Marine continues to expand its activities in servicing North Sea oil rigs. It acquired 3 new 5,600 bhp tug/supply vessels which have been supplemented by two larger boats of the same type but of 9,000 bhp each. They are all capable of operating throughout the year in the severest weather conditions. As ship managers Wimpey Marine also operate 3 supply vessels for Brown & Root-Wimpey. The construction of further crane barges and tugs to service civil engineering contracts is in hand with the present fleet of some 50 units fully committed.

Overseas: building and civil engineering

Our endeavours to increase overseas operations during the past year have met with considerable success. The main centres of activity have been in Iran and the Middle East where we have a record work-load.

In Oman we are constructing a 110 kilometre highway and have several building contracts in Muscat, including an hotel. A large crusher and aggregate production plant is being constructed in association with Salwa and will be operated for the Government of Qatar. Further work was won in Bahrain with Yusef bin Ahmed Kanoo, and new orders were obtained for fabrication and for offshore installation projects by Brown & Root-Wimpey Middle East. The joint venture, Alfuttaim Wimpey, in Dubai was successful in obtaining contracts for two bridges and reconstruction of the Suq Wharf. Good progress has been made on major contracts for the Saudi Arabian Government by our joint venture with John Laing and Haji Abdullah Ali Reza, and we were awarded a contract for a major airfield and terminal buildings at Abha.

We have formed new companies for our operations in Iran which are already engaged on several large projects for the Iranian Government, including a dry dock at Bandar Abbas. In Algeria a company, SERWIS, has been formed with the Algerian state company, SNERI, initially to co-ordinate the design and construction of various industrial developments, three of which are already in hand.

Good progress has been made in Zaire on the £30m contract covering the reconstruction of seven airfields, which is due for completion in January 1977. A contract for a large extension to Michelin's tyre factory in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, has been won by George Wimpey & Co (Nigeria) and work continues on the new market in this city, whilst Wimpey-Brown & Root (Nigeria) has produced good results operating the fabrication yard and an offshore service base.

In the Far East construction of the nuclear power station at Ko-Ri in the Republic of Korea proceeds despite difficulties caused by a severe shortage of vital materials.

Our Caribbean subsidiary, based in Trinidad, completed a secondary school and a 12-storey office block in Port of Spain. As well as the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway it also has several small contracts operating successfully. The steel fabrication facility at Goodrich Bay maintained a reasonable level of work during the year.

In Peru, at Iquitos, we completed a jetty for the reception of pipes destined for the Trans-Andean oil pipeline whilst, at the Pacific end of the pipeline, we have been awarded an £8m contract for a marine terminal at Bayovar.

We have continued our business activities in Australia at the same level as last year.

Our Canadian subsidiary, with headquarters in Toronto, has increased its turnover to £28m, despite a downturn in the residential market during the last quarter of the year. Already there are signs of improvement and, with civil engineering work-load at a record level, we are confident that there will be continuing expansion of our overall business in 1975. Permanent offices have been established in Ottawa and in Edmonton, Alberta, where, in addition to general contracting operations, we have purchased residential land for development. We have also bought housing land in Columbus, Ohio, as an initial venture into the American market.

We are looking to Europe for further business. Sales on our housing site near Paris are encouraging and additional sites in France will be opened during the coming year. We have signed an agreement with Intercooperation Company of Budapest for the construction in our No-Fines technique of 24,000 dwellings in Hungary during the next 10 years. The site operations will be carried out by the Hungarian building co-operatives under our supervision.

Mechanical, electrical and chemical engineering

Deferment by some of our clients of proposed new facilities due to economic uncertainties has led to a slight reduction in the volume of work carried out by George Wimpey ME & C during the year. One of its achievements was the work at Nigg Bay on Highland One, the world's largest oil offshore jacket. This involved responsibility for installation of the mechanical and electrical engineering and instrumentation associated with the flotation system, the successful operation of which was vital to placing the structure in the Forties field.

Contracts awarded during the year included a gas compressor station in Scotland, several BP expansion projects at Grangemouth, and the design and construction of a very large starch products plant at Tilbury.

Overseas, two substantial projects in Belgium have been completed and work on the Romanian irrigation system is nearly finished. Activities have continued in Bahrain and also in Saudi Arabia, where we have formed a joint company, Arabian Mechanical Engineering Company (AMEC), with the National Construction Company, a member of the Ali Reza group. Further work will be carried out in Nigeria and Peru and increasing involvement overseas should lead to a satisfactory 1975.

Asphalt and quarrying

Wimpey Asphalt achieved a substantial increase in turnover during the year with good results despite the massive rise in hydrocarbon prices. However with the cutback in expenditure on road contracts it is difficult to foresee the extent of our future programme in the UK.

Expansion of work overseas was significant, particularly with the surfacing of airfields. Pearls Airport, Grenada, Kisangani Airport, Zaire and Kai Tak Airport, Hong Kong, were completed with several other airfields at present being surfaced in Zaire and Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Roadworks in progress include the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway in Trinidad and the new 110 kilometre road in Oman.

Facing: Carlsberg Brewery, Northampton, the largest automated brewery built outside Denmark. A management contract by George Wimpey ME & C.

Architects: Knud Monk

Consulting Engineers: Ove Arup & Partners



In association with Strabag-Bau and Bitumarin, work is continuing on the High Island Dam project in Hong Kong. This operation involves the use of hydraulic asphalt and the design of bituminous materials. Wimpey Asphalt provides a consultative and advisory service in this particular application. In France the company formed with Les Chantiers Modernes successfully completed the surfacing of some 32 kilometres of auto-route running from Beaune to Dijon.

The mastic and felt roofing section increased its workload and the acquisition of The Pure Asphalt Co (Bolton) should secure material needs in the North West.

Our quarries once again produced good results. Moore Brothers (Quarries), our subsidiary in Northern Ireland, acquired a further basalt quarry near Coleraine and also took over the sand extraction business of Madden Bros. operating at Lough Neagh. In the North of Scotland the MacWilliam group had an excellent year and is well placed to play an important role in the increasing activities in the Highlands, whilst in South Wales the associated company Margam Slag once again traded satisfactorily.

Laboratories

With the increasing range of the company's activities and sophisticated building techniques, the technical support of Wimpey Laboratories has continued to be most valuable. There has been extensive research into methods of improving thermal and sound insulation of dwellings and experiments with full scale sections of houses in our acoustic test chamber have provided useful information on economical methods for achieving the new standards.

Our marine investigation activities have been extended both at home and overseas. Following the commissioning of our new dynamically positioned site investigation vessel MV Wimpey Sealab we have carried out exploratory drilling for the NCB off the Northumbrian coast and in the Firth of Forth. It is anticipated that this vessel will make an important contribution to the development of North Sea oil by undertaking the necessary foundation and geological investigations.

Our specialist engineering services were in greater demand on a number of interesting jobs which included the stabilisation of the rock mass beneath a lighthouse in the Shetlands, the grouting of piles on the Forties field oil platforms and a considerable volume of mine infilling work at various sites in the UK.

Top left: MV Wimpey Sealab (5950 tons), operated by Wimpey Laboratories is a sophisticated dynamically positioned vessel designed for drilling in deep water through the centrewell. Used primarily for site investigations and geological studies, this vessel, with roomy accommodation, can be used for a variety of specialist marine activities.

Bottom left: An attractive No-Fines housing estate for the London Borough of Enfield.

Borough Architect: NC Dowell RIBA

Top right: The 22 km dual carriageway, Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway, in Trinidad, constructed by George Wimpey (Caribbean) which improves communications between the north and south of the island.

Bottom right: A private development of luxury flats overlooking the river at Kingston-Upon-Thames.









Top: A modern malt whisky distillery at Auchroisk, Scotland for International Distillers and Vintners blends in tastefully with the local countryside.

Designed by Westminster Design Associates

Bottom Left: MV Wimpey Seawolf at the Pool of London prior to going into service with Shell Exploration UK.

Bottom Right: RH Gane and Sir Godfrey Mitchell inspect Seawolf with members of Wimpey Marine staff.







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(From 7.5.75 0376 512721)

Facing: Head Office for Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Architects: Anthony C Lewis Partnership

Civil/M&E: AD & B Consultants

Quantity Surveyors: Frank G Coates FRICS



